



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 19.49 Thursday, December 5, 2013 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren FREE

Belleville's Winter Fest runs all day Saturday

The big lighted Winter Fest parade begins at 6 p.m. on Saturday in Belleville, but family activities are taking place all day long.

The ice sculptures are expected to be in place around town and expected to stay firm this year because of the predicted frigid temperatures.

A pancake breakfast will be held at the Methodist Church to begin the day.

The Jingle Bell Run starts at 9:45 a.m. at Horizon Park and runs over the Denton Road Bridge and back to earn money for the Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation.

There will be movies and cookie decorating at the Belleville-Area District Library in the afternoon, with "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" being shown at 2:30 p.m. and "The Polar Express" at 3 p.m.

There's wine tasting at Main Street Flowers and a bounce house for children at the corner of Third and Main.

The Belleville Area Museum opens its doors to show off its Festival of Holiday Trees, which features a silent auction to win decorated trees at a Dec. 10 drawing.

Skating will be going on all day at the Fourth Street Square, courtesy of the BYC,

who will loan out ice skates to those who came to town without them. Actually, the skating will begin on Friday and also be available on Sunday.

The Belleville Area Council for the Arts will host a kids crafting area in the Chamber offices during the afternoon. They also will be selling hot cocoa and goodies in the afternoon.

There will be a Soup Crawl on Fourth Street with a dozen vendors and caroling starting at 3 p.m., featuring the Bethany Choir at 4:30 p.m. with Main Street closed for the festival goers. The parade starts at 6 p.m.

Santa, who is brought to town on a fire engine at the end of the parade, will be given the Key to the City and then help light the Christmas tree in front of the museum.

Santa then walks over to the United Methodist Church to talk to the children.

A live nativity scene will also be outside the front door at the Methodist Church.

Fireworks will begin about 7:30 p.m. from the Denton Road Bridge.

Winter Fest is sponsored by the Belleville-Area Chamber of Commerce and many other local organizations.

Super volunteer Ralph Nodwell dead at 79

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Christmas always was a favorite time of the year for Ralph Nodwell, who loved to dress up as Santa Claus and meet with children at the Festival of Trees in Detroit's Cobo Hall.

He was the festival's Santa for more than 10 years to benefit Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation.

Santa Ralph also would go over to Children's Hospital to talk with ailing children. He looked forward to the season and loved bringing smiles to little ones.

He got to know a lot of people of all ages with his Detroit volunteer work.

One year, he provided the *Independent* with a photo of him as Santa with the Radio City Music Hall Rockettes from New York City clustered around him.

Ralph Alexander Nodwell, Jr., of Van Buren Township, died at the age of 79, on Sunday, Nov. 24, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor after undergoing heart surgery in early September.

At the June 18 meeting of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, Trustee Reggie Miller read a Resolution signed by



the whole board honoring a frail Nodwell for his 34 years of volunteer work in the Tri-Community.

The proclamation brought a standing ovation from the audience. He received the proclamation and then Township Supervisor Linda Combs also gave him an ornate plaque.

He and his wife of 53 years Arleen posed for a picture with the township board as he held his awards.

Nodwell, who served his country as a Marine, loved to help people. The *Independent* regularly called Nodwell when people needed handicapped ramps built. He knew how to get the supplies donated and to

get the ramps built without a lot of fuss.

In 2009, he worked to get an American flag erected in front of the Van Buren Public Schools Administration Building, voicing surprise that it had been without a flag for so long.

He had an associate's degree in mechanical technology (engineering).

Nodwell served as President of the Belleville National Strawberry Festival and President of the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, as well as serving on the VBT Recreation Committee.

He also served on the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education for three terms -- 13 years. (Obituary on page 7)

VBT's old barn at Riggs Heritage Park burns on Thanksgiving

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The old barn at Riggs Heritage Park at the corner of Martinsville and East Huron River Drive in Van Buren Township burned on Thanksgiving morning.

The fire was first called in at about 1:30

a.m. and fire crews stayed until 5:30 a.m., with one crew staying overnight to make sure nothing outside the barn was burning.

VBT Fire Chief Dan Besson said the hay in the barn and debris was expected to smolder for a few days until it burns itself out or they can get a backhoe in there to

sift through it.

Chief Besson said the metal roof collapsed and covered everything, making access difficult and that is why it continued to smolder throughout the weekend.

He said mutual aid came from Belleville for an engine (since VBT's Engine 2 was out of service), Sumpter Township for a brush truck, and Augusta Township for an off-road ATV.

"We were very appreciative of the help that morning considering the holiday," Chief Besson said.

Besson said it wouldn't be cost-effective

to do what would be a lengthy investigation into the cause of the fire, especially since the building is owned by the township.

The big barn and brick house on the Riggs property were part of the property given to VBT for a township park by the developers of Country Walk Planned Residential Community.

A park restroom and walking trails have been built on the southern part of the donated acreage. The house has had hazardous materials professionally removed and then was boarded up and fenced by the township.

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

City Council sets workshop Monday to discuss fire fighter pay

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

After a lengthy discussion at Monday's regular Belleville City Council meeting, a special work/study session was set for 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9, to discuss, in detail, the training rate of pay for the fire department.

In the meantime, the council voted unanimously to raise the training rate from the present \$5 per hour to the Michigan minimum wage of \$7.40, since there is a training session in between the two meetings.

Fire Chief Brian Loranger had asked for the \$5 wage to be doubled to \$10 an hour several meetings ago, but the council had failed to act.

Councilwoman Kim Tindall made the motion to set the fire training wages to the State of Michigan minimum wage, which set off a long discussion.

Mayor Kerreen Conley didn't think the minimum wage was necessarily the right way to go. She asked for a study session where anyone could ask anything they want to ask before the rates were readjusted. And, more information was needed from the fire department.

Mayor Conley said she wanted to emphasize that the council did not think all the fire fighters were worth minimum wage.

Council members agreed the \$5 was too low, but they wanted to make sure there was money enough in the budget to handle any pay increase.

When the special meeting was announced, Chief Loranger replied, "You'll be setting the meeting with someone else because I'm retiring."

"This is a nail in the coffin. We do a lot of work for the community and it goes unrecognized," Loranger said.

Later he agreed to come to the meeting with additional information and put off his "retirement."

"I want to see this through," he told the *Independent* after Monday's meeting.

Loranger told the council that he has estimated 936 man hours of training which is the absolute maximum for 13 people. He knows from experience that he can't get all 13 to all the training because of their job and family responsibilities.

The current fire department budget is \$52,000, Loranger said, noting a few years ago it was \$70,000.

With training at the \$10 rate, including for Hazmat/USAR, Loranger estimated total expenses of \$52,970 for the year.

"If you practice, you're ready when you need it," Loranger explained. "We need to continue keeping it in their heads."

Mayor Conley said the city doesn't tell the fire department not to go out on runs

because their budget has run out of money.

George Chedraue questioned raising the rates for one week and Mike Renaud agreed, "I think it's silly to change payroll one week and then going in again the next week."

Loranger said fire fighters are on a monthly pay schedule and they won't get the December check until January.

"We all agree they need a raise," said Mayor Conley.

"It's good faith going forward," said City Manager Diane Kollmeyer.

Police Chief Gene Taylor said it is hard to foresee when police or fire crews will need to be used. Loranger said on the night of the recent blackout, his fire fighters had 12 runs.

In other business at Monday's meeting, the council:

- Approved the contract renewal of WCA Assessing at \$21,370 per year for 3 years with option of another 2 years at the same price. There is an increase of \$10 for those appeals that have to go to the full Tax Tribunal, from \$185 to \$195 per hour;

- Approved a Memorandum of Understanding and a Participation Resolution for the Joint Management Committee of the Downriver Sewage Disposal System for another year. Belleville is one of 13 communities represented in the group that is trying to get a handle on overhead costs. "We're not any closer to an agreement than

we were in 2012," said DPS Director Keith Boc. He said the County has no respect for the JMC and the situation actually is getting worse;

- Announced the city's annual Holiday Home Decorating contest, telling residents to have their lights on from 6 to 10 p.m. on Dec. 11 and 12 to be judged;

- Approved the city council meeting schedule for 2014, which is the first and third Mondays at 7:30 p.m., except for three days when holidays push the meetings to Tuesdays, instead;

- Approved accounts payable of \$111,199.23 and departmental purchases over \$500: to Blue Ribbon Contracting, \$8,848.40 for water valve replacement; to SEMCOG, \$737 for membership dues; and to SMART, \$1,539.28 for vehicle repairs;

- Heard Renaud ask about the "shed" at the Bayou, which he said, "Looks terrible." Boc said the overhang structure has a permit, but the sides have been put up and were not permitted. Boc said he will have to go have a look at it. Mayor Pro Tem Jack Loria said it looks like a "winter storage shed." Boc said he believes it's a shelter for smokers; and

- Heard Mayor Conley announce the Christmas tree next to the bridge will be decorated this week by a city crew using a bucket, so they can put the decorations higher than last year.

Sumpter Township PD now wearing new pocket digital videocams

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

On March 12, the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees agreed that high-tech pocket gadgets that record video and audio away from the patrol car would be a good addition to police department equipment.

The board voted unanimously to approve a grant application prepared by Police Lt. Eric Luke for five FirstVuHD devices.

Burnham & Flower insurance agency offers grants of \$5,000 for equipment to cut a police department's liability and the township was hoping to get one of these grants to pay for the five devices.

This was the first time the township applied for a Burnham & Flower grant and they won the grant.

Then-Lt. Luke, who is now Captain Luke, announced at the Aug. 13 meeting that the township had obtained its grant and will get its officer-worn cameras.

In October the devices arrived and police officers donned their new cameras.

The cameras were discussed at length at a March board meeting.

Police Chief Jim Pierce said his officers have audio devices in the patrol cars, but

when the officer goes away from the car or inside a house, sometimes the audio is lost. The video shows just what's in front of the patrol car.

"Video helps with disputes," Chief Pierce

said. For example, he said a lady claimed an officer did or said something inappropriate and after she saw the video of the incident, she apologized.

This new device will protect the township

and officers from false claims, he said.

Board members questioned whether it was an invasion of privacy to go into a home wearing a video recorder, but Luke said police can record anything they are involved in.

He said, "I don't think we're obligated in Michigan [to announce we are recording], as long as one person knows it is being recorded ... We have dash cams, but once the officers gets out, the audio only goes up to 1,000 feet and the video is only what's in front of the car..."

Luke said if he is in a house there is no audio when a person with a knife comes at him. If he takes deadly force, the video would show why he took the action he did.

The equipment is about the size of a cell phone and goes in the pocket with a wire on the shirt and 16 hours worth of battery life.

When questions persisted on officers being in a house without a warrant, township attorney Rob Young said officers are only expected to be in a house after being invited in or while serving a warrant.



Pam Baker of Burnham and Flower insurance company, at right, recently presented a ceremonial check and a real check for \$5,000, to the Sumpter Township Police Department for the grant officially awarded late last summer. The grant was for the purchase of the new Taser Axon Body video cameras that all Sumpter Township patrol officers and supervisors now wear. As of about a month ago, all official interactions between officers and the public are now recorded by the cameras. "In my opinion, this is a win-win for both" the police and the public, said Police Captain Eric Luke who sought the grant. From left are Captain Luke, Police Chief Jim Pierce, Clerk Clarence Hoffman, Jr. and Baker.

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Letters

VB School custodians have skeleton crews

To the Editor:

Van Buren school custodians are working with skeleton crews.

The high school has a bare-to-the-bone crew. Owen and McBride have only two custodians for the entire schools and Owen has many after-school activities that the custodians have to set up for.

The elementary schools many times have only one person to clean, other times one-and-a-half persons. These people are worked to death and cannot handle any more.

This is why our children are getting sick, because the schools cannot be properly cleaned because of lack of help. Don't blame the custodians.

People quit, get fired, or retire and are not replaced. Privatizing is not the answer because these people do not get background checks and our custodians are checked.

Another problem is they put someone in charge that has NO custodial experience and laid off the person that had said experience.

Parents: check all this out.

Dolores Nedeau
Sumpter Township

Thanks to the Van Buren Eagles for Thanksgiving

To the Editor:

We would like to thank the Van Buren Eagles for the delicious Thanksgiving dinner and wonderful entertainment that they provided for the seniors on Nov. 24.

Gary and Patricia Marshall
Van Buren Township

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VB needs to revive interest in its heritage

To the Editor:

At approximately 1:30 a.m. this past Thursday morning Van Buren Township fire fighters were called to the Riggs Heritage Park at the corner of East Huron River Drive and Martinsville Road.

The old dairy barn on the property was aflame. By morning the entire structure had burned to the ground.

The old barn had been vandalized before, most recently in the fall of 2012 when fire fighters were called to put out a fire apparently started by young miscreants. The reason for the current burning was supposedly a downed electrical wire.

The property has been idle for some time, with no one overseeing the house and barn. The property was given to VBT as an offering from the developer who wanted to develop the property south of the RR tracks.

Although the stated aims of VBT are to develop the park property into a Historical/Heritage site, no steps have been taken by the current and previous administrations to do so. The only improvements done were: 1. A new roof for the residence; and 2. the construction of the toilet facilities walkway/bikepath. Both of these were done by Davenport Brothers Construction Company, the latter being done with grant money.

Although there have been interested parties who would like to contribute to putting the Riggs Park project forward, there appears to be no more grant money available, and a general lack of interest from both VBT and the general public.

Therefore, the following conclusions should be addressed. VBT should get something going at Riggs Park, if for no other reason than to attempt to preserve what is left. Any new grants should not be spent as political quid pro quo pork barrel treats, but should be directed towards maximum value yield.

It is truly a shame that VBT has dragged its feet on improving and protecting its historical assets, and now a wonderful old heritage barn is gone forever. This one more important loss of historical things, a trend which seems to be increasing with the years. Hopefully this viewpoint letter will get the needed attention to amend the current trend.

Jimmi Chapman

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More Letters

Angel of Hope ceremony is 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 6

To the Editor:

We invite you to the special candlelight memorial, Angel of Hope, to honor your beloved children who have gone before us. This short, but solemn, evening of dedication and honor is set aside each year on Dec. 6 in loving tribute to the memory of our beloved and greatly missed deceased children, regardless of age.

The "Angel of Hope" or also known as the Christmas Box Angel Statue was introduced to the world in the book "The Christmas Box," a worldwide bestseller and hit television movie by author Richard Paul Evans.

The "Angel" represents HOPE and her garden is a place of peace and serenity for all parents and families to visit. The site represents a place to grieve and heal for all our angels. The loss of a child, regardless of age, is insurmountable and we need to keep their "light" shining on with our love.

Candles, hot chocolate and flowers for the dedication will be provided. Please feel free to bring a weatherproof ornament to decorate the spruce tree located near the angel.

Your precious child's name can be announced during the ceremony. Please call the Brown Family Center of Belleville at 734-697-5090 to let us know if you want your child's name announced during the ceremony.

Sincerely,
Mary Martinez, Grief Coordinator
Brown Funeral Home / Brown Family Center



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Obituaries



Ralph Nodwell

RALPH A. NODWELL

(October 14, 1934 - November 24, 2013)

Ralph Alexander Nodwell, Jr. age 79, dedicated Belleville resident for 34 years, passed away Sunday, November 24, 2013 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor. He was born October 14, 1934 in Hartford, Connecticut, son of Ralph Alexander and Frances Matilda (Warren) Nodwell, Sr.

He proudly served his country in the U.S. Marines. He was the former President of the Belleville Strawberry Festival and the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce. He was also a Van Buren School Board member for over ten years and a member of the Van Buren Parks & Recreation. His biggest joy was playing Santa Claus at the Festival of Trees, the Belleville Fire Department and local children's hospitals.

Ralph is survived his wife Arleen Arlyle (Hewett) Nodwell; three daughters, Joan Marion Nodwell of Garland, Texas, Coreen Joyce (Carl) Grolle of South Lyon, and Sharleen Cindy Gibbons of Belleville; 4 grandchildren Kellie, Carl, Justin and Faith; two brothers, Richard (Ann) Nodwell of Burlington, Connecticut, and James (Rita) Nodwell of Massachusetts; also numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters Marion Nodwell and Irene Freeman; a brother Robert Nodwell; also a nephew Ronald Freeman.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A Memorial Celebration of Life Service will be held Saturday, December 14, 2013 at 4:00 PM at the David C. Brown Temporary Funeral Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, with a gathering from Noon until 4 PM.

Memorial contributions may be made to Detroit's Children's Hospital and would be greatly appreciated. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a story for his family to treasure at www.davidcbrownfh.com.



Theodore G. Solo

THEODORE G. SOLO

(May 7, 1937 - November 26, 2013)

Theodore Glen Solo, age 76, lifelong Romulus, MI resident, passed away Tuesday, November 26, 2013 at Arbor Hospice-The Residence, Ann Arbor, MI. He was born May 7, 1937 in Romulus, son of Gerard Theodore and Hazel May (Heavlin) Solo.

He was a member of Huron Valley Conservation Club, Van Buren Eagles, Wayne Moose, and a former member of the Belleville Moose. He enjoyed Euchre, mowing his lawn, and loved the outdoors - hunting and fishing.

Ted is survived by son Mark (Jean Raica) Solo of South Lyon, MI; daughter Lisa (Mark) DeMara of Romulus; 3 grandchildren, Alisha (Kevin), Chris and Paige; 3 great-grandchildren, Tyler, Gavin and Ava; two brothers, Louis (Norma) Solo of Florida and Bernie (Joan) Solo of Caseville, MI; two sisters Illene (Art) DeHartogh of Romulus and Margaret (Roger) LaBell of Northern Michigan; also numerous nieces, nephews and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Loretta on August 19, 2012, also a step-brother Junior.

Visitation was Monday, December 2, 2013 6-8 PM and Tuesday 3-8 PM at David C. Brown Temporary Viewing & Funeral Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, with Funeral Services at 11:00 AM Wednesday, December 4, 2013 at David C. Brown Temporary Viewing & Funeral Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville. Interment was in Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to Arbor Hospice & Home Care and would be greatly appreciated. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a memory for his family to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com.



Elnor May Brown

ELNOR MAY BROWN

(November 6, 1927 - November 20, 2013)

Elnor May Brown, 86, of Van Buren Township went home to be with the Lord with her loving family by her side.

She worked at the local Meijer bakery for many years.

She will be missed dearly by her loving son Greg and his wife Donna; her daughters Georgette, Diana, Linda, and Deborah.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband Ronald and two daughters, Sandy in infancy, and Kathy in 2004.

Also leaving behind her loving grandchildren, great- and great-great-grandchildren who she cherished. She will surely be missed by all.

Cremation has taken place by her wishes and a memorial service will be held Up North at a later time.

GERALD M. HAWKINS

(December 8, 1937 - November 30, 2013)

Age 75, of Belleville. Survived by wife Anna Lee Hawkins; 5 children; 15 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; a brother and 2 sisters. Service was Wednesday at David C. Brown Temporary Funeral Chapel, Belleville.

IMA JEAN TRESSLER

(November 10, 1928 - November 25, 2013)

Ima Jean Tressler, age 85, of Canton, MI, formerly of Belleville, MI, passed away Monday, November 25, 2013 at her home surrounded by family. She was born November 10, 1928 in Wichita, Kansas, daughter of Cecil and Velma Irene (Jordan) Stiles.

Jean worked in the Banking Industry for many years and retired from PNC Bank. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church, Belleville. She enjoyed sewing, baking, gardening and canning and freezing vegetables. She was an avid bowler on the Senior League and loved traveling with her husband.

Ima Jean is survived by her husband of 54 years, Ralph Eugene Tressler; daughter Cindy Hudge of Canton; two granddaughters Linda Hudge of Belleville and Erica Hudge of Canton; a sister Betty (Phil) Patterson of Salem, OR; also numerous nieces, nephews and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, also a sister, Louise Sutton.

Visitation was 4-8 PM Friday, November 29, 2013 and 10-11 AM Saturday, November 30, 2013 at David C. Brown Temporary Viewing & Funeral Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, with an 11:00 AM Funeral Saturday, Rev. Jim Walker officiated.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association and would be greatly appreciated. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for her family to treasure at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

PHYLLIS MAE BIES

(July 24, 2013 - November 25, 2013)

Age 82, lifelong Belleville resident and Van Buren Public Schools custodian for more than 30 years. Survived by three daughters Pam, Lori, and Cathy. Funeral service was Dec. 2 at David C. Brown Temporary Funeral Chapel.

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2 POLE BARN!



9502 HAGGERTY, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

LOTS TO LOVE! 5+ acre brick ranch offering 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, finished basement with large living room and bar. Paved street and 2 huge pole barns. Possible re-zoning to commercial use. It's clean and neat with new carpet and fresh paint. This one shows great! Priced at \$239,500

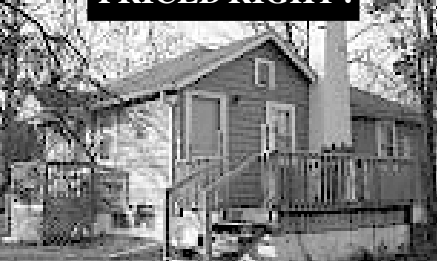
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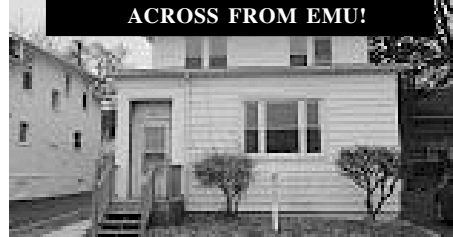
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15685 BROOKSIDE, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

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965 WASHTENAW, YPSILANTI

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1163 ROULO, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

SENSATIONALLY SPACIOUS! This home is feature rich and includes huge 29x29 family room with fireplace with walkout to a large wrap deck and fenced yard. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, dining room, first floor bedroom and much more. 2-1/2 car garage with shed on a corner lot. \$194,900, or \$1,400 month lease. Call for details

Festival of Holiday Trees

Nov 19-Dec 28 Belleville Area
Museum, Silent Auction ends Dec 10

Winter Fest

Saturday Dec 7 DOWNTOWN

Ice Sculptures, Ice Skating at 4th St Square
Soup Crawl, Caroling, Lighted Parade at 6pm
Santa and Tree Lighting, Fireworks! at 7:30pm

Jingle Bell Run 9:45am Horizon Park

Movies and Cookie Decorating -

How the Grinch Stole Christmas 2:30pm,
and *The Polar Express* 3pm - at the
Belleville Area District Library

**Children's Ornament Workshops
and Visits with Santa**
Dec 14 & 21 Belleville Area Museum

Holiday Concerts

Dec 14 7pm Belleville Community Chorus
Dec 21 7:30pm Belleville Community Band
Both at Belleville Methodist Church

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Obituaries



Sandra Lee (Artley) Smith

SANDRA LEE (ARTLEY) SMITH

(March 12, 1938 - November 27, 2013)

Remembering and Celebrating the Life of Sandra Lee (Artley) Smith – Sister, Aunt, Niece and Friend

Sandra Lee Smith, resident of Lake City, Michigan, passed away in her home in Lake City on Wednesday, November 27, 2013. Sandra was born on March 12, 1938, the only daughter of Olive Fern (Hedding) and Clarence Miles Artley, her loving Mother and Father of Belleville, Michigan at Beyer Hospital in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Sandra grew up in Southeast Michigan with her two younger brothers, Fred and David, in Belleville, Denton and Ann Arbor, Michigan. Sandra graduated from Ann Arbor Pioneer High School in June 1956.

She married Carl J. Smith of New Boston in May 1971. Carl was the love of her life and they were very happy together. Sandra would tell you that those were the some of the best years of her life. Together, they both enjoyed the simple country life and the interaction with many friends and family members. Sandra was a dedicated homemaker. She was a talented artist and oil painter as was her Mother Olive. She often served as a "mother" to Fred and David, her younger brothers. Sandra never had children of her own, but her brothers' children – Linda, Carol, Bobby, Sandra Lin, Kimberly, Sean, Paul and Matthew (and their spouses) were her family.

Sandra was preceded in death by her parents; Clarence in 1964 and Olive in 1986 and her husband Carl in 2001.

In the spring of 1993, when Carl retired from the Huron Clinton Metropolitan Park Authority, Carl and Sandra moved to Lake City and continued to enjoy the close knit community, country life. Carl passed away all too early in 2001 and we all suffered from that loss. Sandra missed Carl tremendously, but it was her family, friends and post cards and letters from all of you that kept her moving and surviving. Sandra truly enjoyed her friends from Belleville and the newfound friends from Lake City. And she

regularly attended the many Artley and Hedding family reunions over the years.

We wish to recognize her Father's two surviving Sisters, Mildred "Midge" Artley and Dorothy "Dort" Mason, both of Belleville, Michigan, both in their late 90s who have always loved, respected, and held Sandra in deep regard in their hearts.

Together, family and friends are not saying Goodbye to our treasured sister, aunt, niece and friend, but rather we are remembering and celebrating her wonderful life.

A Memorial Service will be 4:00 pm at the Young Funeral Home in Lake City, on Thursday, December 19, 2013 with Chaplain Diane Geyer officiating.

Memorial contributions may be directed to Mercy Hospice or a Hospice of one's choice.

An online obituary may be viewed and condolences offered by visiting www.youngfuneral.com

Condolences may be sent to:

FRED AND MITSUKO ARTLEY at Artley6@aol.com OR Fred and Mitsuko Artley, 5286 Rio Plata Drive, Oceanside, California 92057 AND DAVID AND PAT ARTLEY @barrieandmaddie@gmail.com OR David and Patricia Artley, 10095 Pepperell Court, Portage, Michigan 49024.

It was Sandra's wish to be buried in Michigan Memorial Cemetery, Flat Rock, Michigan with her best friend and loving husband, Carl and her wish to be remembered as she was. She will be cremated and will be interred at a reasonable time in the future depending on weather.... The family will advise by email the date and the service at Michigan Memorial in Flat Rock.

Christmas Band Concert is Saturday, Dec. 21

Christmas Concert date:

Saturday, Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m.

Free Admission

First United Methodist Church
417 Charles Street

As Christmas approaches, the City of Belleville is preparing to offer our residents many joyous events to bring in the Holiday spirit.

With that in mind, the Belleville Community Band is pleased to announce its Christmas concert, under the direction of Mr. Tim Miller.

The board and members of the band would like to extend to the community our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and say thank you for supporting us over the years.

Jack Keelan, President
Belleville Community Band

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GIFT CERTIFICATES



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Tues., Thurs. & Fri.
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday
Noon - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sun. Noon - 5:00 p.m.
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Sun., Dec. 15th @ 11:00 am, refreshments after
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Viva Darlene Kelly, who lives at Columbia Court in Belleville, is turning 90 years old on Sunday. She was born Dec. 8, 1923 in Rogers, Arkansas, and has been a Michigan resident since 1951. She has lived in Belleville since 1977. Mrs. Kelly was the wife of an Assembly of God pastor for 60 years. She has two daughters, Rhoda Edwards of Springfield, Missouri, and Rhonda Parmenter of Belleville; and a son Ken Kelly of Corbin, Kentucky.

Pet of the Week Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue **"RAINBOW"**



There's no reason to look somewhere over the next rainbow to find your next pet since our **Rainbow** has all you'll ever want right here within her gentle, sweetly shy heart. She's a young kitty girl that took her time warming up to people but has blossomed in a really pleasant, gentle and fun cat. She has the cutest little squeaky meow, loves kitty treats and enjoys playtime especially if it involves laser beams or dangling things. Her beautiful multi-colored coat is velvety soft and extra thick a perfect combo for petting. **Rainbow** can still get spooked easily so her ideal fur-ever home is one with a calm environment without young kids or dogs but could include other cats which she seems to get along fine with. So give up all the looking and come meet **Rainbow**, she's all you'll ever want. She's spayed, vaccinated, tested neg. for FeLuk/FIV and micro-chipped. **734-461-9458**

BHS announces open swim dates for December

John Cast, pool director, has announced open swim dates for December at the Belleville High School swimming pool:
Tuesdays, 9-10 a.m., Dec. 10 and 17;
Thursdays, 9-10 a.m., Dec. 5, 12 and 19;
Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m.,
Cast will try a "Lap Swim" for adults and tri-athletes, on Dec. 4, 11, and 18.

Cost remains the same, \$5 per swimmer, which is used to help defray the cost of life guards.

There also will be an Alumni Swim Meet at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21.

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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN

NOTICE TO THE TAXPAYERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

The BOARD OF REVIEW of the Charter Township of Van Buren will meet at the Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road on Tuesday, December 10, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting will be:

- 1) To correct clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact;
- 2) Homestead exemption status; and
- 3) Poverty exemptions.

Any property owner who believes they qualify should call Van Buren Township Assessing Department at 734.699.8946 prior to December 7, 2013.

Leon Wright
Van Buren Charter Township

Publish: December 5, 2013
Post: November 26, 2013



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Main Street Flowers & Gifts in Downtown Belleville is having its annual **Wine Tasting Event** this Saturday, Dec. 7, from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Call (734) 697-7400. Everyone is invited.

Bethany Bible Church on East Huron River Drive in Belleville will be again offering its **Belleville Basketball @ Bethany** program, a kid's basketball league beginning Jan. 11 and running through March 15 for children in grades K-6. The cost is \$30 per participant, \$40 if signed up after Jan. 11. To register, get the times and more info, visit www.bethanybiblechurch.com, or call (734) 697-7456.

The public is invited to the 70th birthday party to celebrate the **Yankee Air Force Museum's B-25 Yankee Warrior** on Sunday, Dec. 8, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the **Willow Run West Hangar at Willow Run Airport**. I made a mistake last week on the identity of the plane. My apologies. The event is free. Call (734) 483 5076.

Zino's Pizza at Bemis and Sumpter roads has inserts in the *Independent* today, but not in all issues. The folks in Sumpter and the majority of the restaurants with higher traffic around town will get them. The reason: It's what we call targeting certain market areas to fit the customer's needs. Papers delivered at the north end of our route system for example wouldn't necessarily be ordering pizza from way



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SIXTH ANNUAL COMMUNITY OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The Belleville Presbyterian Church will be holding the Sixth Annual Community Old Fashioned Christmas Service in the historic Martha-Mary Chapel on Sunday, December 15th at 6:00 in the evening. You are cordially invited to join us for a service of Lessons and Carols, and for a time of fellowship afterwards.

Special music will be offered by Seek to Be Ministries, a singing group that regularly graces worship at Belleville Presbyterian Church, along with other gifted musicians, instrumentalists and singers.

Take a step back in time and come enjoy a simple, moving worship service in an historic setting as you finalize your holiday preparations. A freewill offering will be taken to support those in our community who are experiencing need during the holidays.

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across town. The strategy is to pinpoint these areas to accommodate the customer's business and save them a little money, too. We can do the same for you too. To learn more, call (734) 699-9020.

Belleville Presbyterian Church on Belleville Road will be offering its **6th Annual Community Old Fashioned Christmas Service** on Sunday, Dec. 15, at 6 p.m. Special music will be provided by Seek to Be Ministries, along with other instrumentalists and singers. Call (734) 697-8687.

Our thoughts and prayers go to Pamela Conley, a former part-time co-worker who delivered papers for us and occasionally worked in the office. Pam lost her husband Richard over the weekend after they battled his long illness together.

Pam and Richard used to live in Holiday West in Sumpter Township with their beloved little dog before moving to her family home.

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, Dec. 9 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons. Also, Belleville City Council work/study session on fire fighter training wages, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 10 – VBT LDFA, 2 p.m. Also, VBT Recreation Committee, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m., followed by regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7 p.m. Also, VBT Board of Zoning Appeals, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 11 – Van Buren Township Cemetery Advisory Committee, 11:30 a.m. Also, VBT Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 12 – Keystone Academy school board, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.



Ask Angela
By Angela Nettro

I am here to answer questions pertaining to buying or selling real estate. Send your questions to "Ask Angela," c/o *Belleville-Area Independent*, 152 Main Street, Suite 9, Belleville 48111 or send me an email at nettroandco@comcast.net. I'll answer questions in this column.

Question from Abby in Sumpter Township: I have been looking to buy a home since a few weeks prior to Thanksgiving. I am wondering if the Holidays are really a good time to buy such a large purchase. I seem to be more emotional this time of year and am afraid I will make a decision based on the "hype" of buying a home for Christmas and regret it after the New Year. What advice can you give me?

Answer: Abby, I do think that the Holidays are the prime marketing season of the year. Many people are caught up in the push to buy many items, including big purchases such as cars and homes. If you feel that you are more emotional this time of year and don't think that you are making an intelligent, but an emotional, decision, I would suggest that you do wait until after the New Year to buy a home.

Buying a home in 2014 will give you time to think more clearly and you might be getting an income tax refund to apply towards the purchase of a home. Also, you will be able to write off the interest on the mortgage you paid throughout the 2014 tax year as well as the whole year of property taxes.

The biggest purchase most people make in their lives is a home, so think smart when you buy your investment and just enjoy the Holidays for now.

Merry Christmas. -- Angela
Angela Nettro/Real Estate Broker
(734) 697-6655
Email: nettroandco@comcast.net

Auto-lab of Canton South seeks nominations for used car giveaway

Auto-lab of Canton South is seeking nominations for a family who needs, but may not be able to afford, a safe and reliable vehicle.

This is the third year the business is giving away a reconditioned car.

On Dec. 20, the auto repair shop will announce the family who will be given the opportunity to buy a 2002 Ford Focus ZX5 for \$1.

Nominations may be mailed to "Auto-lab of Canton South Cares," 44744 Michigan Ave., Canton 48188. All nominations must be postmarked by Dec. 13. Information and nomination forms are available at www.cantonautolab.com, on the shop's Facebook page and at the shop. The car will be on display at the shop until it is sold.

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*some restrictions apply. WAC, EHO

Expires 12/31/2013. NMLS #33675

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Birthdays

Dec. 8 - Viva Darlene Kelly
Dec. 11 - Lori Demond
Dec. 12 - Thomas A. White
Dec. 16 - Christine McArthur
Dec. 17 - Alex Briggs

Do you have a birthday in December? Does anyone you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* at 699-9020 and let us know. We'll list it in this column ASAP following your call. There is no charge.

"Sometimes I wonder whether the world is being run by smart people who are putting us on or by imbeciles who really mean it."
Mark Twain

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WANTED

WANTED - ANY SIZE MEN'S JEANS for the homeless. Please drop off at Bladez's 601 E. Huron River Drive. (734) 697-5600 TFN

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\$8.25 total per hr. plus good benefits.
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VBT Board postpones adoption of 2014 budget until Dec. 17 meeting

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

After lots of discussion and a request for detailed information on the more than \$3 million for public safety department wages, the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees agreed to postpone adoption of the 2014 proposed general fund budget until its next meeting on Dec. 17.

The amended general fund budget for 2013 will also be considered Dec. 17.

On Tuesday, the board held the public hearing on the budget that has to be held by Dec. 15. A balanced budget has to be adopted by the end of the year.

The 2013 amended and 2014 proposed budgets for all the special revenue funds were adopted on a 5-2 vote.

The proposed, balanced \$13,657,027 general fund budget contains the supervisor's full-time executive assistant, a new part-time Human Resources person, \$2.8 million from the landfill fund and \$400,000 from fund balance.

HELP WANTED

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected calls for VBT Police.

Sunday, Nov. 24:

0016 – disturbance, 46121 Village Green Ln.
0141 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
0411 – missing person, 14307 Westlake
0624 – hospice, 10151 Belleville Rd.
1009 – property damage accident, WB I-94 / Belleville
1014 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Morton Taylor Rd./Van Born Rd.
1031 – personal injury accident, WB I-94/191
1119 – fraud, 7201 Anna Dr.
1134 – private property accident, 48480 Denton
1317 – assault & battery, 42611 N. Cumberland Dr
1416 – malicious destruction of property, 9871 Barkley St.
1745 – holdup alarm, 50778 Michigan Ave.
2108 – larceny, 49070 Denton Rd.
2341 – noise complaint, 7 Ash Dr.

Monday, Nov. 25:

0216 – property damage accident, 8742 Hardwood
0833 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
0931 – assault & battery, 6164 E. Adams
0947 – hospice, 7 Pine Dr.
1235 – narcotics crime, McBride Middle School
1542 – malicious destruction of property, 85 Rose
1607 – malicious destruction of property, 10850 Belleville Rd.
1624 – intimidation threat, 48519 W. Huron River
1708 – larceny, 48581 Denton Rd.
1804 – property damage accident, Hannan/Tyler
1805 – property damage accident, Tyler/Belleville
1943 – personal injury accident, I-275/Ecorse
1950 – suicide or attempt, 41700 N. Bellridge Dr.
1952 – juvenile complaint, 251 S. Ponderosa Trl.
1942 – property damage accident, NB I-275 / Ecorse

Tuesday, Nov. 26:

0433 – noise complaint, 12051 Haggerty Rd.
0645 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
0838 – harassment call, 49221 S. I-94 Service Dr.
1154 – malicious destruction of property, 6589 Parkside Dr.
1452 – larceny from auto, 41600 N. Bellridge Dr.
1544 – private property accident, Walmart
1631 – fraud, 11116 Quirk Rd.
1706 – larceny, 41847 Fret Rd.
1749 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd./N. I-94 Service Dr.
1919 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
2000 – property damage accident, 11933 Belleville
2115 – breaking & entering, 45715 Prairiegrass Ct.
2222 – noise complaint, 12 Birch Dr.

Wednesday, Nov. 27:

0010 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Haggerty Rd.
0113 – assault & battery, 48930 Denton Rd.
0635 – assault & battery, 43444 N. I-94 Service
1126 – fraud, 48721 S. I-94 Service Dr.
1214 – intimidation threat, 17100 Elwell Rd.
1219 – larceny from auto, 48931 Denton Rd.
1309 – suspicious person, 14214 Arlene Ln.
1311 – fraud, Walmart
1628 – breaking & entering motor vehicle, 11000 Lighthouse Dr.
1815 – assault & battery, 6373 Sadie Ln.
1922 – disorderly conduct, 2193 Rawsonville
1949 – breaking & entering, 7457 Kirkridge Park
2216 – assault & battery, 51269 Landmark

Thursday, Nov. 28:

0149 – assist fire dept., 43242 E. Huron River Dr.
0139 – shots fired, 9103 Parkwood Dr.
0308 – assault & battery, 48910 Denton Rd.
0330 – assault & battery, 7138 Fay Dr.
0915 – property damage accident, Sumpter / Spencer
0955 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Rawsonville
1031 – fraud, Kmart
1156 – breaking & entering, 46600 Bemis Rd.
1854 – property damage accident, Haggerty / Savage
1913 – intimidation threat, 9340 Parkwood

1958 – suicide or attempt, 11875 Quirk Rd.
2118 – assault & battery, 16305 Westlake
2300 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Lighthouse
Friday, Nov. 29:
0028 – property damage accident, 48581 Denton
0050 – assault & battery, 78 Park Estates
1025 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 10819 Oak Ln.

1544 – disorderly conduct, 11875 Quirk Rd.
1547 – disturbance, Van Buren Plaza
1652 – trespassing, Beck/Ecorse
2338 – noise complaint, McBride/Van Buren

Saturday, Nov. 30:

0447 – assault & battery, 6528 Parkside Dr.
0523 – assault & battery, 7101 Westlake
0920 – intimidation threat, 49990 Bog Rd.
1158 – noise complaint, 46171 Village Green Ln.
1237 – property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler
1622 – breaking & entering, 41555 S. Bellridge
1757 – fraud, Meijer
1910 – assault & battery, 42018 Lincoln St.
2243 – noise complaint, Sugarbush/S. Ponderosa
2256 – breaking & entering, 11130 Van Buren St.
2233 – disturbance, 158 Aspen

Also on this week's log are 206 traffic stops, 70 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Nov. 24:

1119 – assist fire dept., 57 Menlo Park
1250 – agency assist, 251 Henry St.
1454 – civil matter, 136 S. Biggs
1458 – family trouble, 15 Carmell St.
1836 – disorderly conduct, 404 Main St., Bayou

Monday, Nov. 25:

0537 – neighbor trouble, 112 Bedell St.
0918 – intimidation threat, 6 Main St.
1608 – bank drop, 6 Main St.
1640 – suspicious person, 941 Sumpter
1743 – assist fire dept., 275 W. Columbia, Columbia

Court

2024 – disorderly conduct, 501 W. Columbia, BHS
2134 – assist fire dept., Columbia Court

Tuesday, Nov. 26:

0906 – found property, 51 Carmell St.
0953 – fraud, 145 Second St.
1030 – agency assist, 112 Bedell St.
1140 – traffic hazard, W. Columbia/A&W
1226 – larceny, 6 Main St.
1308 – private property accident, O2BA Kid
1309 – warrant arrest, Rawsonville Mobil
1351 – juvenile complaint, Light Tower Ct. / wetlands

1456 – animal complaint, 745 E. Huron River Dr.
1519 – property damage accident, 45201 Owen St., school

1638 – welfare check, BHS

2300 – property check

Wednesday, Nov. 27:

0048 – assist fire dept., Savage Rd./Victorian Ln.
0522 – missing person, 6 Main St.
1017 – welfare check, 136 Biggs Ave.
1025 – assist fire dept., 795 Sumpter Rd.
1133 – welfare check, 15 Carmell St.
1209 – follow-up, 493 W. Waterbury Ct.
1651 – suspicious person, 181 Belle Villa Blvd.
2229 – miscellaneous complaint, 941 Sumpter
2249 – parking complaint, 569 E. Thornhill Ct.

Thursday, Nov. 28:

0135 – suspicious situation, 56 Potter Dr.
0151 – agency assist, 43242 Huron River Dr.
1016 – civil matter, 606 Estrada
1039 – warrant arrest, Canton PD
1201 – parking complaint, 70 Carmell St.
1610 – suspicious situation, 250 Henry St.
1632 – assist fire dept., 31 N. Edgemont Ave.
1711 – holdup alarm, 120 Menlo Park Dr.
2002 – agency assist, 11875 Quirk
2137 – suspicious person, 360 Charles
2303 – agency assist, 11131 Van Buren
2320 – noise complaint, 122 Menlo Park Dr.

Friday, Nov. 29:

1336 – welfare check, 112 Bedell St.
1732 – assist fire dept., 106 Clarence St.
1827 – assist citizen, Columbia Court
1904 – suspicious situation, 15 Menlo Park Dr.
2052 – assist fire dept., 326 Brain St.

2119 – suspicious vehicle, 25 Owen
2133 – civil matter, 324 W. Columbia Ave.
2251 – motorist assist, Main/Second
Saturday, Nov. 30:
0342 – civil matter, 209 Charles Ct.
0450 – E-911 hang up/investing., 209 Charles Ct.
0656 – domestic assault, 509 N. Liberty St.
0940 – fraud, 19 Loza Ln.
1142 – assist fire dept., 24 San Carlos St.
1158 – animal complaint, 138 Clarence St.
1212 – assist fire dept., 48 Henry St.
1624 – intrusion alarm, BHS
1715 – intimidation threat, 13 Carmell St.
2229 – E-911 hang up/investing., 380 N. Liberty
2340 – suspicious person, 584 Main St.
Also on this week's log are 60 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Nov. 24:

0250 – animal complaint, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0555 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0753 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1003 – mental health commitment, 48000 bl. Wear
1702 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Executive Dr.
1829 – trespassing complaint, 46000 bl. Willis
1931 – suspicious vehicle, 45000 bl. Dunn Rd.
2227 – well-being check, 28000 bl. Karr Rd.

Monday, Nov. 25:

0904 – alarm, 47000 bl. Executive Dr.
1504 – citizen assist, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1735 – subpoena service, 21000 bl. Martinsville
1746 – property damage accident, Dunn/Sumpter
1824 – suspicious vehicle, Elwell/Judd
1829 – alarm, 47000 bl. Executive Dr.
2024 – property damage accident, 43000 bl. Judd

Tuesday, Nov. 26:

0850 – subpoena service, Rustic Lane
0932 – citizen assist, 46000 bl. Willow Road
1409 – property damage accident, 6500 bl. Oakville
Waltz Rd.

1419 – civil dispute, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1611 – identity theft report, Hampshire
1935 – warrant arrest, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1956 – suspicious person, Utah

Wednesday, Nov. 27:

0836 – warrant arrest, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1034 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Judd Rd.
1045 – animal complaint, 26000 bl. Sherwood
1558 – civil dispute, 13000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
2229 – warrant arrest, 6700 bl. Oakville Waltz

Thursday, Nov. 28:

0728 – animal complaint, Karr/Judd
0810 – alarm, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
1138 – animal complaint, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.
1151 – harassment complaint, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

1221 – citizen assist, 46000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1656 – property damage accident, 23000 bl. Clark
1815 – disorderly person, Edgewood
2041 – 911 hang up, 23000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
2051 – suspicious vehicle, Bemis/Martinsville
2303 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.

Friday, Nov. 29:

0124 – fire dept. assist, Wyoming
0304 – family trouble, Nevada

0811 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1203 – well-being check, Birch
1304 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1404 – suspicious incident, 19000 bl. Sumpter
1445 – animal complaint, 51000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1455 – property damage accident, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1627 – larceny, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1705 – fraud complaint, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2220 – traffic hazard, Willis/Sumpter
2329 – 911 hang up, 21000 bl. Prince Rd.

Saturday, Nov. 30:

0012 – warrant arrest, out of township
0234 – alarm, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1240 – subpoena service, out of township
1359 – suspicious incident, Judd/Sumpter
1503 – malicious destruction of property, California

1620 – civil dispute, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1635 – fraud complaint, 50000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1722 – 911 hang up, 46000 bl. Harris Rd.

Also on this week's log are four follow-up investigations, 18 miscellaneous details, 99 patrol checks, and 30 traffic stops.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Friday, Dec. 6** – Angel of Hope ceremony at 7 p.m. at Hillside Cemetery to remember children who have passed on. Free hot chocolate and flowers. Feel free to bring a weatherproof ornament to hang on the tree near the Angel. If you would like your child's name read aloud, call Brown Family Center, 697-5090.

• **Saturday, Dec. 7** – A big Pizza Party with Santa is set for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Tin Pan on Sumpter Road in Sumpter Township. Gifts for the kids. Cost is \$6.99 each, but there will be dollar-off coupons available before the event. Proceeds will go to adopt a local family for the holidays, said Carol Morris, owner of Tin Pan.

• **Saturday, Dec. 7** – The big, annual Holiday Arts & Crafts Show at the Van Buren Township Community Center, 46425 Tyler Road, runs 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

• **Saturday, Dec. 7** – Santa will be collecting toys for Toys for Tots from 10 a.m. to noon at Leo's Coney Island, 9624 Belleville Road, then will go to Canton Public Library from 2 to 4 p.m. Natalie Mosher, who is running for State Representative on the Democratic ticket in 2014, and her Marine husband, Bob, are sponsoring the collection. There will be candy canes and hot chocolate for the little ones.

• **Sunday, Dec. 8** – Free Country and Bluegrass music from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Van Buren Senior Center. Information: Hugh, 485-7241, or Lynette, 699-8918.

• **Thursday, Dec. 12** – Dee Crowe will speak at 7 p.m. at the library on "A Tour in China" as part of the Homegrown Knowledge Series. Free.

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Court Watching: Possible alias of accused VBT armed robber may increase penalty

By Diane Madigan
Independent Court Reporter

On Monday, Lincoln Park resident Michael Earl-Chavis Lee, 28, appeared before Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Megan Maher Brennan with his attorney Ronald McDuffie for an arraignment on the information.

Lee is accused of the Oct. 24 armed robbery of the Health Smart Pharmacy on Belleville Road along with a 15-year-old, armed accomplice.

As Lee stood mute in his Wayne County Jail jumpsuit, a not guilty plea was entered on his behalf.

At Lee's Nov. 6 preliminary exam at 34th District Court, in Romulus, Judge David Parrot continued Lee's \$250,000/10% bond. In Detroit, at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice, Lee's attorney requested to return on Thursday for a calendar conference and to re-issue bond but Judge Brennan's clerk said the DSU referral for a bond re-issue would take a week.

DSU referrals give the defendant another chance to make bail.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Dominic DeGrazia asked to amend the information in the case believing Michael Lee has an alias which would make him a Habitual 4 offender. DeGrazia also said he has had conversations with Lee's attorney and there is a potential plea agreement on the table.

The offer from the Prosecutor at this time is Lee pleads guilty to Counts 1, 4 and 5 in exchange for dismissing two additional counts of armed robbery.

Count 1 is Armed Robbery, Count 4 is Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, and Count 5 is Weapons, Felony Firearm.

If there's a guilty plea, Lee will face at least 4 years in prison, just for the firearms.

Because of additional information being entered by the prosecution regarding Lee's alias, the arraignment on the information was adjourned until Thursday, Dec. 5. A calendar conference will also be held at that time.

Correction: 5 Star fire

Augusta Township Fire Chief Vic Chevrette said he and his fire fighters were on their way back from attending to a call for a tree on a house at Bunton and Willis roads on Nov. 17 when he saw the Five Star Market on fire in Sumpter.

He said he was in his private vehicle and actually was the first fire fighter to arrive at the scene and give a condition report.

Chief Chevrette said someone at the Mobil station at the corner of Rawsonville and Willis Roads saw the fire and called 911, which went to the Washtenaw County dispatch.

He said at first dispatch was going to cancel Augusta, but since they were 30 seconds away, they were not cancelled.

He said the Augusta Township fire truck arrived on the scene at the same time as the Sumpter Township engine. He said since the Sumpter engine had only one man on its truck and Augusta had five guys, they hooked up the Augusta hoses.

Then Van Buren Township and Ypsilanti Township arrived and, "All the fire departments worked great together. We want to keep that going," he said.

Chief Chevrette said his fire fighters were upset with the report printed in the *Independent* about the Augusta fire truck at first turning the wrong way at the Willis/Rawsonville intersection and having to turn around. That was incorrect, he said.



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